



## Manchester and Stockport MWiB Newsletter. Autumn 2011.



### **Greetings from the President.**

Due to such programmes as "Who DO You Think You Are?" I have been trying to find out a little of my family roots. From what I have been told some of my descendents on my mothers side came from France and were Huguenots; and there may even be some Jewish connections. So now I am looking forward, when time permits, to delve more into this and to see if anything in my families past may have contributed to what I am today.

This has made me think of the parallels of where we are today at Methodist Women in Britain.

Starting from Women's Work in 1858. Women's Fellowship in 1945. Both these organisations coming together as Network in 1987. And now joining with the British Unit of the World Federation Of Methodist And Uniting Church Women under the umbrella of Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB) in 2011.

I wonder, what does the future hold for MWiB? What connections will we make in the future as we travel forward?

Moving and travelling on is a great theme of scripture and has many applications in the Christian Life. As we are setting out on our venture as MWiB are we prepared for the new challenges, new directions and new ways of doing things knowing that God in Christ is with us on our journey.

*Yours in His Service, Lynette Brocklehurst.*

# A message from our MWiB Chaplain.

*Dear Friends*

Recently I was given a small book called the 100 Verse Bible. It says it is the essence of the world's most popular book. Opening it for the first time I was faced with the words "If the Bible could be encapsulated in a single sentence then it would cry out like the resounding waves of the sea, "The Father loves you""

Each page holds a selection of one verse that is vital, according to the author, to the story of God's love for us and the book finishes with a letter written from God to humanity using those hundred verses.

Sometimes it is useful to think about what is most important to us, to concentrate our thoughts. Which verses from the bible would you choose if you were only allowed a few which are most important to you and express your experience of God? Are there some that challenge you but you take with you anyway as you hear God speaking through them even if they are uncomfortable?

We are a people of the book to the extent that the bible contains a revelation of God's relationship with his people through history but we are also people of the Spirit who through our prayer, worship and lives continue the story of God's relationship with the world now.

May we continue to say, and help the world hear, the words the Father loves you.

*Jane Wild.*





# MWIB Launch Service on Friday 1st July 2011.

This was an amazing day when Women's Network moved forward to unite and combine resources with World Federation. This is what it is all about, all Methodist Women coming together, networking and joining forces to be a stronger movement, Methodist Women in Britain.

This unity was celebrated on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2011 at Lord Street West United Church, Southport. On this day, Jill Baker was commissioned as the President, Julie Hulme as Vice President, Alison Judd as WFMUCW Area President, Liz Marriot as Communication Officer and Gillian Pengelly as Finance & Resource Officer.



Kathleen Pearson started the service by the song 'Bambela'. She talked about the new movement and the journey we will be travelling. The atmosphere at this service was electric and feelings of emotions were displayed among all who were in attendance especially when the song 'Bambela' was sang.

Mark Wakelin's speech was uplifting and full of praise and wished the new movement well on their journey together. He also spoke of the dedication of the last Connexional Team who worked tirelessly in the formation of this new movement.

Other speakers included Liz Smith, Alison Tomlin and Kathleen Richardson. As well as a drama which was performed by Peter Baker.

To me the whole service was very moving and felt very honoured to be part of the connexional Team involved with the formation of this new movement. My journey back home with Dorothy Taylor and Liz Turner was a memorable one where a missed turning lead us in the dark night through opened fields. We finally arrived home safely .

This just shows that even when one takes a wrong turning the Lord will lead us home safe when one places their trust in Him.

Ling Henry





**12<sup>th</sup> World Assembly**  
**World Federation of Methodist and**  
**Uniting Church Women**  
**Johannesburg August 2011**  
**Bambelela!-Christ is our Hope**

Around 700 women from over 70 countries of every continent, converged in Johannesburg for the 12<sup>th</sup> World Assembly on August 12th, for the five-yearly event which takes place in the same country as the World Methodist Conference (which had met earlier in Durban) The theme was: 'Bambelela-Never Give Up, Christ is our Hope'

There was a strong British contingent of 56 women, including 40 or so who had not attended a WFMUCW conference before, I think we were all outside the airport in Johannesburg at the same ungodly hour having travelled overnight from the UK! We all had tales to tell of airport adventures (ours included booking in three times at Manchester and having only 20 minutes to make a dash across Terminal 1at Heathrow before our re-booked flight left!)

What I was immediately aware of was the diversity of the delegates. Imagine listening to the conversations at mealtimes and in the conference room - Pentecost all over again! I was touched by the generosity of our British women, who, alongside a grant of £10,000 from the World Mission Fund, enabled the attendance of seven women from the very small Methodist churches in the Europe Continental area to be there. In addition, there were women (assisted) from small Asian countries,

including Myanmar, whose representatives had to spend a week in Bangkok waiting for their visas to be granted. They were asked for photographic evidence of their hotel accommodation, but because of the time difference, this took several days to accomplish! The prayerful support of their Bishop was enlisted -with a positive result! They rushed to the airport just in time for their flight, but were dismayed at having to pay tax on the craft goods brought to sell at the Assembly, in order to defray their travel expenses. Others from Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe, Birmingham and London were also assisted with their costs. This generosity was also seen when gifts taken for the South African women and their families were presented. There were literally huge piles of clothing, bedding, baby clothes, feminine hygiene goods and toiletries, all given in response to a special appeal from the South African Unit. Some Units (like the Manchester and Stockport District, chose to present monetary gifts in lieu of using valuable luggage weight allowances) Vivienne and I were proud to present a gift of £400 from our District. An African theme was ever present; a



highlight at the opening session was hearing the young drummers from a school in Soweto play, they had been given the opportunity to play, as a result of encouragement by the local Methodist congregation in Soweto.

Drummers greeted us in the dining rooms each evening. In fact music was a vital feature of the Assembly. The music director (Alison Adam from the UK) brought her repertoire of World Church music with her and seemed to have a song for every occasion.

I will long remember the enthusiastic singing, drumming and dancing of the many African women present, they enlivened every session with enthusiastic movement and colour! We were in Africa so (consequently???) every session ran over time and started late! In fact the final session bore no resemblance to the printed schedule (some found this easier to cope with than others!) That said, we crammed an enormous amount into four full days (one day shorter than previous conferences, to cut costs) it was possible to be on the go from the early prayer sessions at 6.00am to the end of the late night prayer vigil at 2.00am!

A constant of the assembly was the praise and worship. However, we were also able to engage in numerous activities from Bible Study right through the spectrum to bead work, African flower arranging, drumming etc. There was an absolutely dynamic contextual Bible study led by an eminent African scholar- Dr



Fulata Moyo, on the encounter between Jesus and the Canaanite woman. WFMUCW's commitment to the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) formed the basis for workshops and these MDGs were also highlighted in Unit reports. To hear what women were engaged in worldwide was humbling to say the least. 'Never Give Up-Christ is our Hope' was apparent in all we heard. The Sunday worship service was memorable (and long for us Europeans, though a 3 hour service is short for our African friends!) and during this epic, the speaker from the Women's Division of Global Ministries USA, Harriet Olsen, urged us to consider our call from God.

The British Unit's report was shaped round a hymn which some of us had leant at the Swanwick conference earlier this year:

'For everyone born a place at the table' with a rousing, heart warming refrain 'And God will rejoice when we are creators of justice and joy' All the unit was dressed in black trousers with (Fair Trade) white T shirts and red pashminas. (Very attractive we all looked, massed together to give our presentation) Each verse was sung to introduce a story of women's involvement in bringing justice and joy to a troubled world; women working together for the kingdom values expressed in the song. We heard about the Southampton District raising £23,374 towards a project which covers 10 villages in Southern Rajasthan through the Wells for India project. We heard too about women working with asylum seekers; their involvement with Fair Trade and with children's work; work too in prisons and a literacy project in Sierra Leone. There were stories about Street Pastors and a very moving testimony from a lady who told of workplace bullying and said due to the love and support of the women in Scotland she had faith again. All the stories we heard illustrated the theme for the Assembly: 'Never give up, Christ is our Hope!' A never to be forgotten 'cultural' experience from the Assembly was our visit to Soweto. We saw the Hector Pieterson Square where the Soweto riots started.

Some of us remembered the struggle of the apartheid years, the bans we supported of Cape fruit, Barclays bank etc, and the marches we took part in (I still have my 'Save Nelson Mandela' badges from that time!!) Then it was on to the Nelson Mandela House, for me, a very moving experience, though it would have been even better if we hadn't been in a party of about 500 women on (at least) 5 Double Decker buses!!

And so down to earth and reality-- to put into practice and daily living **'Never Give up! Christ is our Hope'** Until the next time!!!



Jenny Went

# MWiB Forum

I travelled to Glenfall House, Cheltham for 1p.m. on Saturday 8th October for the 24 hour forum. Reps from all the districts were present and we were welcomed by our connexional team. Also in attendance was Helen Kim Scholar, Rachel Coates and our new Methodist rep for Women's World Day of Prayer committee for England, Wales and Northern Ireland, Elizabeth Burroughs from Cornwall. Julie Hulme was unable to be with us due to her health, but sent word to us that she was praying for us and her appreciation for all that the Methodist Women are doing to uphold her, David, Kate and Debbie during this time. We had a full programme which was underpinned by worship and prayer. One of the main areas we addressed was communication both in the movement and within the wider Methodist church and beyond the church into society.

There was a hands on workshop on I.T, and the new MWiB website is a work in progress, more is being added each day. It will offer resources, information and interaction for all ages. I can highly recommend Jill Bakers daily presidents blog, you can find the website at [www.mwib.org.uk](http://www.mwib.org.uk) .



MWiB Conference at Swanwick.

Friday 20th - Sunday 22nd April 2012.

**Bambelela!  
Never give up**

*Booking forms now available!*





## A Butterfly's Lesson.



One day, a small opening appeared in a cocoon; a man sat and watched for the butterfly for several hours as it struggled to force its body through that little hole.

Then, it seems to stop making any progress.

It appeared as if it had gotten as far as it could and it could not go any further.

So the man decided to help the butterfly: he took a pair of scissors and opened the cocoon.

The butterfly then emerged easily.

But it had a withered body, it was tiny and shriveled wings.

The man continued to watch because he expected that, at any moment, the wings would open, enlarge and expand, to be able to support the butterfly's body, and become firm.

Neither happened!

In fact, the butterfly spent the rest of its life crawling around with a withered body and shrivelled wings. It never was able to fly.

What the man, in his kindness and his goodwill did not understand was that the restricting cocoon and the struggle required for the butterfly to get through the tiny opening, were God's way of forcing fluid from the body of the butterfly into its wings, so that it would be ready for flight once it achieved its freedom from the cocoon.

Sometimes, struggles are exactly what we need in our life.

If God allowed us to go through our life without any obstacles, it would cripple us. We would not be as strong as we could have been. Never been able to fly.

I asked for Strength...

and God gave me difficulties to make me strong.

I asked for Wisdom...

and God gave me problems to solve.

I asked for prosperity...

and God gave me a brain and brawn to work.

I asked for Courage.....

and God gave me obstacles to overcome.

I asked for Love...

and God gave me troubled people to help.

I asked for Favors...

and God gave me Opportunities.

I received nothing I wanted...

But I received everything I needed.



Live life without fear, confront all obstacles and know that you can overcome them.

Remember, when you feel impatient, that God's timing is always right.



**Anyone interested in sending any children's clothes to the  
Charity EI Shaddai in Goa India?**

This Charity was started by a Christian lady from the UK . She was attending a church service and was deeply touched by the poverty of the street children. This charity was also a president's charity in 2004. Anyone who is going to Goa for a holiday and would like to take some clothes are able to have this excess baggage waived. Please contact Chris Gregory Email [xsbaggage@childrescue.net](mailto:xsbaggage@childrescue.net). Mobile 07806781462. She will contact the airline you are travelling with and will make the arrangements. Chris is a volunteer for this charity based in Handforth.

# Future Events.

For more information Please see Lynette Brocklehurst

## MWiB Roadshow

Saturday 18th February 2012 2.30pm—4.30pm

Wesley Methodist Church, Chester CH1 1DA

## District Spring Meeting

Saturday 25th February 2012

At Handforth Methodist Church

## MWiB Swanwick Conference

20th—22nd April 2012

Bambelela

- Never Give Up -

## District "At Home"

And

## Commissioning of the New District President

Saturday 23rd June 2012 2pm

At Whalley Range Methodist Church

Items for the next newsletter  
need to be in by the end of  
January 2012 to  
Lynette Brocklehurst.

